

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /046 W
-----053786 100052Z /21

R 091536Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1325
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
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USEEC, OECD AND AMEMBASSIES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: OPINION POLLS ON SPANISH TRADE UNIONS

SUMMARY: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, RECENTLY REPORTED IN
SPANISH PRESS, THROW SOME LIGHT ON PROSPECTS FOR THE
VARIOUS SPANISH TRADE UNIONS. ALTHOUGH KNOWLEDGE AND
ACCEPTANCE OF UNIONS ARE RISING RAPIDLY, 21 PERCENT OF
THOSE MOST RECENTLY POLLED WERE HOSTILE TO ALL THE
UNIONS, WHILE 28 PERCENT DID NOT KNOW WHICH THEY PREFERRED.
AMONG THOSE WHO EXPRESSED AN OPINION, THE SOCIALIST
GENERAL UNION OF WORKERS (UGT) HAS A CLEAR LEAD, FOLLOWED
BY THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED SPANISH WORKERS' COMMISSIONS
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(SWC), WITH TWO SMALLER UNIONS AT A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE.
THESE RESULTS, THOUGH EAGERLY HAILED BY THE UGT, ALSO
REVEAL AREAS OF POTENTIAL WEAKNESS FOR THEM AS THIS
FALL'S PLANT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

1. LEFT-CENTER "CAMBIO 16", SPAIN'S LEADING NEWSWEEKLY,
COMMISSIONED THREE PUBLIC OPINION POLLS (IN NOVEMBER 1976,

APRIL 1977 AND JULY 1977), UTILIZING PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH 1,000 ADULTS IN EACH CASE, AT BETWEEN 72 AND 85 LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE, STRATIFIED BY REGION AND SIZE OF TOWN. WHILE THE SAMPLE IS SMALL, AND THE METHODOLOGY SUSPECT, SIMILAR POLLS TAKEN BEFORE THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS PROVED SURPRISINGLY ACCURATE IN DISCERNING SHIFTS OF PUBLIC OPINION. RESULTS FOLLOW.

2. PUBLIC RECOGNITION - BASED ON THE JULY POLLS, THE UGT IS KNOWN TO 59 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED, UP FROM 47 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER. THE SWC IS KNOWN TO 46 PERCENT, UP FROM 41 PERCENT. A SMALLER UNION, THE ANARCHO-SYNDICAL NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CNT) ACTUALLY SHOWED HIGHER PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAN THE SWC, WITH 48 PERCENT, UP FROM 40 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER, APPARENTLY DUE TO MEMORIES AMONG OLDER PERSONS OF ITS PRE-CIVIL WAR IMPORTANCE. THE CHRISTIAN-SOCIALIST WORKER SYNDICAL UNION (USO) IS LAST AMONG THE MAJORS, WITH 38 PERCENT RECOGNITION, UP FROM 22 PERCENT.

3. UNION PREFERENCE OF THE ENTIRE SAMPLE - THE UGT LEADS WITH 26 PERCENT (UP FROM 25 PERCENT), SWC WITH 13 PERCENT (NO CHANGE); THE CNT HAS 8 PERCENT (UP FROM 5 PERCENT); THE USO TRAILS WITH 4 PERCENT (NO CHANGE); 21 PERCENT HAD NO PREFERENCE OR DISLIKED ALL THE UNIONS (DOWN FROM 41 PERCENT), WHILE 28 PERCENT DID NOT KNOW (UP FROM 13 PERCENT).

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4. UNION RECOGNITION AND PREFERENCE AMONG THE EMPLOYED SAMPLE: ONLY 27 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED WERE WAGE-EARNERS. AMONG THESE, KNOWLEDGE OF UNIONS WAS HIGHER, BUT STRONG PREFERENCES WERE NOT:

-- RECOGNITION - UGT: 74 PERCENT
SWC: 59 PERCENT
CNT: 58 PERCENT
USO: 49 PERCENT
NONE: 22 PERCENT.

-- PREFERENCE - WHEN ASKED WHICH UNION THEY WOULD JOIN, 12 PERCENT OF THE WAGE EARNERS SAVE THE UGT, 8 PERCENT THE SWC, 2 PERCENT THE CNT, AND 1 PERCENT THE USO; 46 PERCENT DID NOT KNOW, WHILE 31 PERCENT SAID THEY DID NOT WISH TO JOIN ANY UNION. (COMMENT: THIS ILLUSTRATES BOTH THE MASSIVE PROPAGANDA TASK FACING THE UNIONS, AND THE POTENTIAL GAINS TO WHOMEVER FIRST REACHES THE UNINFORMED.)

5. REGIONAL DISTORTIONS - WHILE THE UGT AND USO SHOW EVENLY-DISTRIBUTED STRENGTH NATIONWIDE, THE POLLS CONFIRM THE COMMON IMPRESSIONS THAT CNT STRENGTH IS LOCALIZED (44 PERCENT)

IN CATALUNYA, WHERE 37 PERCENT OF SWC SUPPORTERS ALSO LIVE.

6. BEST DEFENSE OF THE WORKERS' INTERESTS - THE UGT IS PICKED OVER THE SWC, 18 PERCENT TO 12 PERCENT AMONG ALL POLLED AND 20 PERCENT TO 17 PERCENT AMONG THE WAGE-EARNERS, WITH THE SMALLER UNIONS FAR BEHIND.

7. PREFERENCES BY AGE - THE MOST RECENT POLL ONCE AGAIN CONFIRMS THAT UGT STRENGTH IS DISPROPORTIONATELY CONCENTRATED AMONG OLDER PERSONS. THOSE OVER 45 MADE UP 49 PERCENT OF THE UGT SYMPATHIZERS, VS. ONLY 25 PERCENT FOR THE SWC.

8. COMMENT: THE UGT HAS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATIS-
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FACTION AT THE POLL RESULTS, WHICH APPEAR TO MARK IT AS THE MOST FAVORED UNION. A SIMILAR POLL TAKEN IN EARLY 1976 HAD FAVORED THE SWC. THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE UGT AND THE SWC IN THE POLL SUPPORTS THE UGT THESIS THAT THE MAIN BATTLE FOR INFLUENCE IS TO BE BETWEEN THESE TWO UNIONS. THE UGT'S RELATIVE WEAKNESS AMONG YOUNGER WORKERS, NOT TO MENTION THE SWC'S CURRENT EDGE IN INFRASTRUCTURE, ARE OBVIOUS AREAS OF CONCERN WHICH THEY ARE ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO REDRESS. WITH THE ALL-IMPORTANT PLANT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS COMING UP THIS FALL, THE UNIONS WILL VERY SOON BE STEPPING UP THEIR PROPAGANDA AND MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGNS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: TRADE, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPINION POLLS ON SPANISH TRADE UNIONS SUMMARY: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, RECENTLY REPORTED IN SPANISH PRESS, THROW SOME LIGHT ON PROSPECTS FOR T
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
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